PNW Misc
1930

TATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
RTHWEST FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION

Facts About the Forest Survey OF THE Douglas Fir Region

What is the Forest Survey?

The "enabling act" of the Forest Survey is Section 9 of the McSweeney-McNary Act of 1928, which provides:

> "That the Secretary of Agriculture is hereby authorized and directed, under such plans as he may determine to be fair and equitable, to cooperate with appropriate officials of each state of the United States, and either through them or directly with private and other agencies, in making a comprehensive survey of the present and prospective requirements for timber and other forest products in the United States, and of timber supplies, including a determination of the present and potential productivity of forest land therein, and of such other facts as may be necessary in the determination of ways and means to balance the timber budget of the United States. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated annually, out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, not more than $250,000: Provided, That the total appropriation of federal funds under this section shall not exceed $3,000,000."

The Forest Survey is a fact-finding project, without any attempt to prove or disprove hitherto published figures, forecasts, or theories, public or private. When secured the facts will be available to all.

What Major Facts Will the Survey Secure?

1. The area of each type of forest cover and the estimated stand by species. Volumes will be expressed in both board feet and cubic feet. Regrowth conditions on cut-over and burned lands

will be determined.

2. Rate of depletion by cutting, fire, insects, disease, and any other factors.

3. Growth rates in old stands and on restocking areas and probable future yields.

4. Present national and local requirements in forest products and probable trends.

How Will the Timber Inventory Be Obtained?

Largely by compilation of existing cruise data in the hands of private owners, cruising concerns, and public agencies. With the limited funds available it is impossible to do much actual cruising. Some field work will be necessary to fill gaps in cruises, examine cut-over lands, etc. Aerial photography will be used where desirable. At the same time the timber inventories of all the national forests in the region are being revised.

Why Should the Private Owner Allow Access to his Cruise Records?

A true picture of the forest situation in the various forest regions of the United States has long been sought by the timber industry, by the users of wood, and by the public agencies dealing with forestry and industrial matters. A reliable set of facts is badly needed to furnish a sound basis for (1) developing further cooperation between timber owners and the public in protection of forests from fire, insects and disease; (2) public and legislative consideration of such matters as forest land tax revision; (3) properly directed wood marketing campaigns; (4) federal and state forest land acquisition and land exchange programs; and many other matters of similar import. A complete impartial assembly and presentation of the facts is the surest and quickest means to bring closer together the divergent views as to what the forest problem is

and what to do about it. The private owner often has the most accurate records. The more nearly accurate the picture is drawn, the more useful the results to all concerned. It is good business and good policy for the private owner to cooperate fully in achieving accuracy.

Will Private Cruises be Kept Confidential?

The private cruise figures will be kept absolutely confidential for use only within the Forest Service. They will be released only in such combination with other ownerships as to safeguard their confidential character and not reveal the identity of individual holdings.

What Geographic Unit will be Used in Presenting the Findings of the Survey?

Since the study is an economic one, the aim will be to present the facts as largely as possible by economic units such as the major timber regions, logical forest industry regions, etc. Units will be selected designed to make the Survey data of the greatest possible economic value.

Will Any Material Be Presented in Map Form?

The plan is to prepare a type map showing the forest cover by major timber types (without indicating volume of the stand) as well as the location of cut-over and burned lands, restocking and not restocking.

Will the Estimates Segregate Special Products?

Yes, as far as practicable figures will be secured on the quantity of special products of both general and local importance, such as pulpwood timber, cedar poles, etc.

What Information Will be Secured on Consumption of Wood?

In cooperation with the Census and other

statistical organizations, figures will be secured on the consumption of wood in the different wood-using categories, such as the manufacturing industries using wood as a raw product, the railroads, mines, urban and rural construction, pulp and paper plants, fuel wood, etc., etc.

How Will Future Trends in Wood Use be Determined?

Frequent censuses will be taken of wood consumption in the major categories which, with past figures, will furnish curves showing trends to date. In addition systematic inquiries will be made in each of the principal wood-using classes to discover whether more or less wood is now being used than formerly and the reasons therefor, which will give a reasonable indication of future trends.

Will the Funds Appropriated for the Survey be Spread Evenly over the Whole Forest Area of the United States?

No, the money will be distributed in proportion to the difficulty and importance of the region. The Douglas fir region will receive more than the national average per acre.

How Long Will the Survey Take?

For the Douglas fir region probably about two and one-half to three years, provided Congress appropriates adequate funds. For the entire United States the authorization bill contemplates twelve years. It is hoped this time may be materially shortened.

Will Regional Reports be Issued as Soon as a Region is Completed?

Yes.

Will Statistical Data be Kept up to Date During the Life of the Survey?

Yes, just as far as practicable. When the

region is completed and a regional report is published, the areas cut over during the progress of the Survey will be added to the cut-over areas found at the start and the timber cut will be subtracted from the volume data as first collected.

What Value Will the Survey have for the Timber Industry?

It will furnish facts badly needed by the lumber industry for the consideration of many of its own problems—market extension movements, mergers, reorganization and consolidation of land holdings for sustained yield operation, regional timber resources back of existing wood manufacturing centers, extent and location of timber resources in competing regions, etc.

It will likewise furnish badly needed information on which to base public policies and legislative programs directly affecting the timber industry, such as forest land tax reform, cooperation in forest protection, etc. It should materially help the public to become forest-minded.

What Value will the Survey Have for the Local Communities in Forest Regions?

It will furnish facts as to the timber and forest land resources underlying community stability, and suggest ways to promote permanent stability. It will furnish facts bearing directly on the need for and adequacy of river and harbor improvements and land transportation facilities.

What Value Will the Survey have for the Forest-Land States?

It will furnish reliable data on the forest resources of the State. It will throw additional light on the part the State should play in forest-land ownership; on the problems of forest land taxation and cooperation in forest protection; on the factors directly affecting the prosperity

and stability of forest industry communities within the State.

What Value Will the Survey have for the Nation as a Whole?

It will give the most nearly complete picture of the nation-wide forest land and timber supply situation ever presented. The facts thus made available will have a direct bearing on national policies and legislation affecting federal forest land acquisition; cooperation in forest protection, planting, research, etc., with States and private owners; making the national forest timber resources serve their fullest economic usefulness, etc. Light will be thrown on the question of whether or not there is any danger of a national timber famine. It will do much to make the general public "forest-minded" in the broadest sense.

What Value Will the Survey have for the Consumers of Wood?

It will furnish facts as to the extent and location of remaining supplies and future yield probabilities of various species and qualities used by the principal wood-using categories—the railroads, automobile makers, mines, paper mills, building construction agencies, wood products manufacturing industries, etc.

What Value will the Survey Have for the Railroads?

It will furnish them much-needed data on the extent of forest resources back of forest-industry communities they now serve. Probabilities as to future forest products tonnage, soundness of extension programs in forest regions, etc.

Where Can Additional Information be Secured About the Forest Survey?

From the Director, Pacific Northwest Forest

Experiment Station, 514 Lewis Building, land, Oregon.

H. J. ANDREWS,
Regional Director, Forest Su
T. T. MUNGER,
Director Pac. N. W. Forest Experiment Station.
C. M. GRANGER,
Director Forest Survey

May 28, 1930
Portland, Oregon

[Ogden-7-29-30-500]